

PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Birgit SCHLEIFENBAUM, *et al.*

Application No. 10/728,653

Filed: December 5, 2003

Customer No. 30448

Attorney Docket No. 3968.099

Examiner: Sharon E. Kennedy

Group Art Unit: 1615

Confirmation No. 8456

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)**Mail Stop: AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the Duty to Disclose under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the references cited on the accompanying forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B are hereby brought to the attention of the Examiner for independent evaluation. In accordance with the Rules in effect for applications filed after June 30, 2003, copies of U.S. patents and/or patent application publications are not enclosed. Copies of English abstracts of foreign language publications have been provided as well as full copies of foreign documents published in the English language. All references were cited in the specification of the present patent application.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

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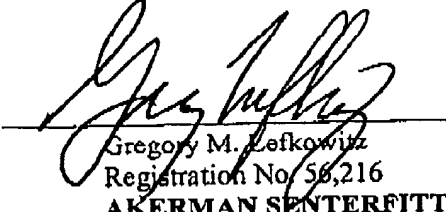
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In re Application of Birgit SCHLEIFENBAUM, et al.
Application No. 10/728,653
Information Disclosure Statement Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)
Page 2 of 2

Certification

This Statement is being filed after the receipt of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance. Accordingly, Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge \$180.00 fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0951. No additional fees are believed due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any surplus to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 9, 2007

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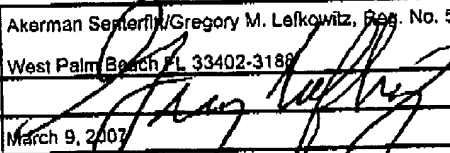
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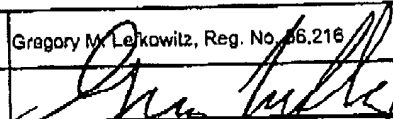
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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/728,853	
	Filing Date	December 5, 2003	
	First Named Inventor	Birgit SCHLEIFENBAUM, et al.	
	Art Unit	1615	
	Examiner Name	Sharon E. KENNEDY	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	22	Attorney Docket Number	3968.099

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual name	Akerman Senterfitt/Gregory M. Leikowitz, Reg. No. 56,216.
Signature	
Date	March 9, 2007

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.	
Typed or printed name	Gregory M. Leikowitz, Reg. No. 56,216
Signature	
Date	March 9, 2007

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/728,653
Filing Date	December 5, 2003
First Named Inventor	Birgit SCHEIFENBAUM, et al.
Art Unit	1615
Examiner Name	Sharon E. KENNEDY
Attorney Docket Number	3968.099/185800

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 6,258,380B1	07-10-2001	Overholt	
		US- 5,939,097	08-17-1999	Fusejima	
		US- 5,820,707	04-15-1997	Sanker	
		US- 5,300,305	04-05-1994	Stapler	
		US- 4,935,243	06-19-1990	Borkan	
		US- 4,517,216	05-14-1985	Shim	
		US- 4,481,157	11-06-1984	Morishita	
		US- 4,251,195	02-17-1981	Suzuki	
		US- 2001/0024678A1	09-27-2001	Scott	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		JP4027352	01-30-1992	Tetsuo	
		JP1037259	02-07-1989	Iwao	
		JP63170310	07-14-1988	Takahiro	
		WO 96/29986	10-03-1996	Sanker	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 909. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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